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REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE RURAL AREA
OF
SALISBURY AND WILTON
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER
1947

SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS

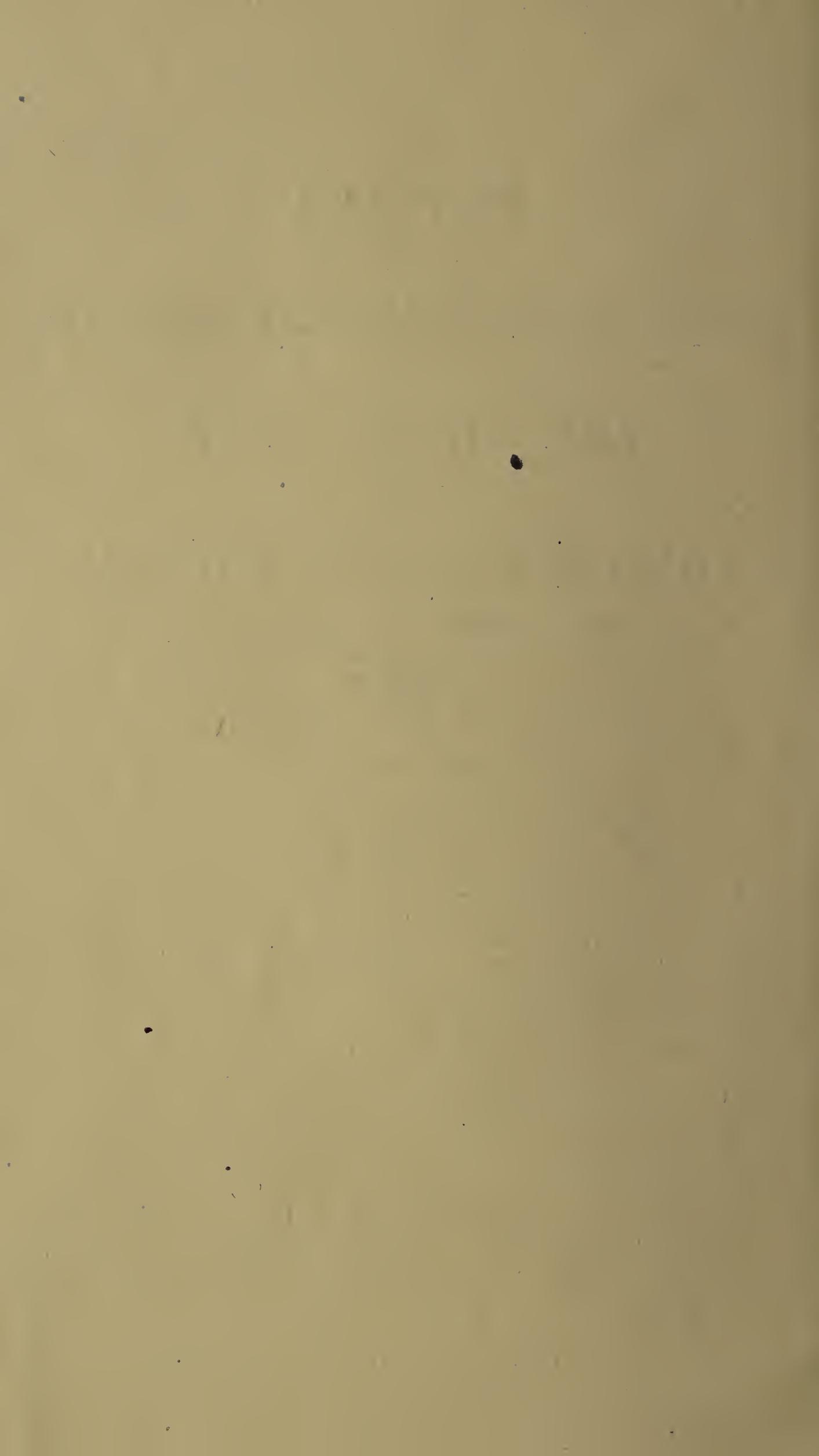
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Report

for the Year ended December, 1947,
on Public Health Matters in the
Combined Rural District of
Salisbury and Wilton.

General Statement.

General Health.

The following statistics will show that the general health of the district has been, under difficult circumstances, extremely good. The birth rate figure 20·5 is the highest recorded for some twenty years. The death rate 12·6 is also a satisfactory figure.

As regards infectious disease, with the exception of measles, all notifications were as low as could possibly be expected. The causes of death and the number of deaths from these causes varied very little from last year's figures. The district passed safely through the risk of smallpox and infantile paralysis outbreaks. One case of smallpox was actually reported and all possible precautions were immediately taken, pending confirmation or otherwise. This fortunately was later proved not to be a case of smallpox. No further cases were reported.

Immunisation against diphtheria went on steadily and satisfactorily throughout the district. The response being good on the part of the parents and the final numbers of children immunised again very satisfactory. In common with the rest of the country we passed through an epidemic of measles but amongst the large number of cases notified and not notified, we had only one death. This occurred in a child having proper treatment in hospital in a case complicated by pneumonia.

Conditions Affecting General Health.

Housing progress proceeds slowly but steadily. The need for more and more houses being shown not only by the large number of applicants on the waiting list in every parish but also by the extreme difficulties of allotting the few houses built among so many deserving applicants. To ease the situation application for temporary dwellings of various types are being granted wherever possible.

Hutted Camps.

Such improvements as are possible, and as the Ministry will agree to, in view of the worn out condition of many of the huts occupied by squatters, are being carried out, but it is obvious that these camps will never be satisfactory and will be a source of worry till we are in the happy position of being able to close them all. Details of housing progress are given later.

Composition of the Area.

The area in acres is 110,163 (approx).

Rateable value of the district—£84,262 os. od.

Penny rate yields approximately £322 5s. 6d.

Population, 16,470.

Vital Statistics to December, 1947.

Births.

The birth-rate was 20.5, which compares with 20.3 last year, and with the figure of 22.2 given by the Registrar General for smaller towns, etc. The following are the figures for the year:—

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population
Live Births—Legitimate	323	167	156	20.5
Illegitimate	15	6	9	
Still Births—Legitimate	12	8	4	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
Illegitimate	0	0	0	34.3

Deaths.

	Total	M.	F.	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 12.6
Deaths ...	... 208	113	95	
Deaths from puerperal causes—				Rate per 1,000 (live and still)
Deaths	Births			
Puerperal Sepsis ...	... 0			0
Other Maternal Causes	... 1			2.8

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Number of deaths...(7 legitimate, 0 illegitimate)...	7
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	19.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	20.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Number of Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	35
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	0

Particulars of Death.

The chief causes of death were :—	Last Year	This Year
Heart Disease only ...	30%	30%
Cancer ...	16%	16%
Tuberculosis ...	2%	2.8%

Public Health Services in the District.

The Medical Officer, in addition to holding the appointment of Salisbury and Wilton Rural District, is also Medical Officer to Mere and Tisbury Rural District, and Wilton Borough. His qualifications are Bachelor of Science (Honours Degree) St. Andrews; Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery; Diploma of Public Health of the

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England ; Certificates of Tropical Medicine and of Tropical Hygiene, London.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector holds the following qualifications : Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers, Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector, Certificate of the Manchester College of Technology, Advanced Sanitary Science and the Certificate of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes.

As stated in the 1946 report, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Thompson, will attain the age of 65 years in July, but I am pleased to say that he has acceded to the Council's request and is carrying on for another year, and Mr. J. A. Furley, who has been additional Sanitary Inspector since 1944, is promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. He holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector and Certificate of Meat and Food Inspector ; also the City and Guilds, London, Building Construction (Honours).

The former pupil assistant who returned in July, 1946, sat for and was successful in obtaining the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector, in July, 1947, and was promoted to the vacancy of Additional Sanitary Inspector caused by the resignation of the second additional assistant, who left in December, 1946. There is also employed a clerk and shorthand typist (male) who in addition to his normal office duties attends the Salisbury Technical School three times per week. His chief subjects this year are mathematics and drawing, with a view of qualifying, in due course, as a Sanitary Inspector. It is gratifying to record that the council show their appreciation of staff and their work by agreeing to this method of promotion.

Water Supplies.

Everything possible has been done by the Council to push on with their comprehensive scheme for the supply of the whole district and some actual progress has been

made in various parishes now and more will be made in the coming year. The combined scheme though generally approved has, however, not yet received the sanction of the Ministry of Health to proceed. The advantage of having a pure and plentiful supply of water for houses and farms is clearly realised by the committee and there is a greater demand now than there ever has been for such a supply on the part of householders farmers, and from the public generally. Many of our parishes suffer from a dearth of water in summer, others take water from often unsatisfactory shallow wells liable to periodic contamination. It is, therefore, hoped that the provision of a plentiful supply of pure water will eventually be available from one end of the district to the other.

The Parish of Dinton is from Mr. D. Combes' private supply. At the time of getting out this report, at Mr. Combes' request the Council are going into the question of taking over this supply, and as and when the Council complete purchase of the pumping station and bore-hole at Fovant, it would appear to be quite a simple and easy matter to connect this supply to the main which did supply the R.A.F. camp at Dinton.

Quidhampton, Stratford-sub-Castle, and parts of Laverstock and Netherhampton have a bulk supply from Salisbury City. This supply is chlorinated,

West Dean is from the Norman Court Estate supply; Alderbury and parts of Odstock and Grimstead from the Earl of Radnor's supply. This latter supply is chlorinated.

The parish of Clarendon is from the Clarendon Estate supply, and the few outlying cottages on this Estate are now having piped supplies laid on

Quarterly samples are taken for bacteriological analysis from the Council's five parish water supplies. These are:—
Fovant—small gravitation supply.

Pitton, Farley, Whiteparish and Ebbesbourne Wake—pumping stations with reservoirs.

The reports on these samples, with the exception of Fovant, have been consistently good. Occasionally the Fovant supply does not come up to the required standard, emphasising the need for the bulk supply from the R.A.F. reservoir situated at East Farm, Fovant.

It is also pleasing to hear that the Ministry are looking favourably on the schemes for sinking new bore-holes at Whiteparish and Farley with a view to augmenting the supplies in both these districts, particularly Farley, to enable Grimstead to have a piped water supply. I understand that in both these cases it is suggested to dove-tail them, as far as possible, into the scheme which was prepared for the whole of the district.

	Estimated Population.	Number of Houses.	Water Supply.
Alderbury	750	313	Piped supply laid on to all houses. Owner of supply, Longford Estate.
Barford St. Martin (See Fovant)	500	192	Wells
Berwick St. James	135	46	Wells. Two private houses have their own small pumping plant and reservoir, with water laid on to houses.
Bishopstone and Stratford Tony	501	180	Wells. Four farms now have their own supply and piped supplies are laid to their cottages.
Bowerchalke	360	116	Wells and private piped supplies. 20 houses with water laid on, 50 from stand pipes and 46 from wells.
Britford	336	74	56 with water laid on and 18 supplied from wells. As regards the bulk supply from Salisbury City for this small hamlet, the scheme has now been sent to the Wilts County Council for their comments.
Broadchalke	595	181	Wells.
Burcombe	226	84	Wells. Piped water supply from public main to two agricultural cottages.

Clarendon Park	303	82	70 with water laid on, 12 without.
Compton Chamberlayne (See Fovant)	130	55	Private pipe supply laid on to 50 houses, 5 from wells.
Coombe Bissett	250	142	Wells, and one farm and cottages with private pipe supply, 6 farm cottages from stand pipe.
Dinton	432	194	Water laid on from private piped supply. See note in paragraph two of "Water Supplies."
Downton	1716	482	Wells. This parish is included in West Hants scheme. At time of writing this report mains are being laid.
			Downton, Redlynch, Landford, (or West Hants Water Board Area). Some progress has been made with the laying of mains and services, but progress is slow due to the shortage of materials and labour.
Ebbesbourne Wake	194	67	12 houses with water laid on, 55 with wells. Approval has been given by Ministry for water mains to be extended. At the time of writing this report work is just about to commence on the laying of the mains for supplying the parish of Ebbesbourne Wake, also for the electrifying of the pumping plant.

Fovant	409	150	The Council are negotiating purchase of pumping station, plant and reservoir from the R.A.F. at East Farm. At the time of writing this report the Consulting Engineers are engaged in getting out specification and estimate of cost of laying mains with a view of having a bulk supply to Fovant, owing to the present supply being unsatisfactory. When the negotiations for the purchase of this from the R.A.F. are completed, it should be possible to connect up the adjoining villages of Barford St. Martin, Compton Chamberlayne, Burcombe and Dinton.
Grimstead (See Farley)	334	85	15 with water laid on, 70 from wells.
Landford (See Downton)	480	164	Wells. Now included in the West Hants scheme.
Laverstock & Ford	900	290	144 houses have water laid on ; remainder, wells.
Netherhampton (See Quidhampton)	180	68	Wells.
Odstock	424	152	100 with water laid on, 50 from stand pipes.
Pitton and Farley	420	140	Water laid on from public main.

Farley			New pumping plant and head gear have been installed. Approval has now been given for trial bore-hole to be sunk with a view of extending a piped supply to Grimstead. This latter is a very urgent need.
Quidhampton	418	110	Water laid on from public main. The present bulk supply from Salisbury is inadequate, and negotiations are in progress for obtaining a bulk supply from Wilton Borough and extending these mains to the hamlet of Netherhampton.
Redlynch (See Downton)	1946	658	
South Newton	446	114	Wells. The remarks in my report of last year still apply, but the Consulting Engineers have now been instructed to consider a piped supply for South Newton and Wishford from (a) R.A.F. plant at Wylie, (b) Wilton, (c) Salisbury.
Stapleford	215	78	Wells.
Steeple Langford	474	141	Wells. Negotiations are proceeding with a view of (a) obtaining a bulk supply from the R.A.F. bore-hole at Wylie as an interim development, and (b) purchasing the bore-hole and reservoir to enable not only Steeple Langford but the

parish of Wylye also to be supplied, and possibly extending to Wishford and South Newton.

Stratford-sub-				
Castle	236	64	Water laid on from public main.	
West Dean	186	48	Water laid on from private piped supply.	
Whiteparish	790	265	Augmenting the remarks in my report of last year, the owner of the land has now given permission to enter for the purpose of sinking an additional trial bore-hole. This is urgently required to enable the high and outlying farms to have their existing supply augmented.	
Winterslow	875	307	Water laid on by private company.	
Wishford	239	74	Wells.	
(See S. Langford)				
Wylye	320	153	Wells.	
(See Steeple Langford)				

Analyst's Report on Water Supplies.

Number of supplies sampled	...	...	48
Number of Good samples ..	...	...	30
Number of Bad samples	...	...	18
Number of Bad samples which showed a Good analysis following remedial work ..	..	..	10
Number of Bad samples which were found to be still Bad after three or four months use (these being new wells or small bores) ..	..	..	8

Sewage Scheme.

It is really hoped that during 1948 approval may be given to the sewage scheme for Downton and the parish of Redlynch. This scheme, particularly to Downton, which is a large parish, urban in character, and largely industrial, is a very urgent one, and should be priority number one.

House Refuse and Salvage Collection.

Unfortunately due to the still prevailing austerity conditions a fortnightly collection of refuse has not yet matured. This much needed improvement cannot be deferred indefinitely as it must be borne in mind that the Rural District is becoming more and more a dormitory to Salisbury—in particular those parishes which are within a radius of ten miles. The increased motor buses give the means of transport to a large number of workers who now reside in the Rural District and who naturally demand Urban amenities.

At the time of drawing up this report the Council's Refuse Contractor gives the information that he hopes to be in a position to commence using his own destructor at the old Gas Works, Wilton. This again is a step in the right direction, and will enable us then to close down our only remaining dump at Downton. When this destructor has got into its proper stride it might be possible to again consider the question of instituting a fortnightly collection.

The following materials have been salvaged during the period under review. Paper, scrap iron, bottles and jars show an increase ; bones and brass are on par ; and rags and sacking, and lead show a slight decrease. It must, however, be borne in mind that the major portion of salvage is collected by voluntary collectors under the direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and our hearty thanks are due to them for their consistently good work.

	Tons	Cwts.		Tons	Cwts.
Paper	...	111 15	Rags	...	3 18 $\frac{3}{4}$
Scrap Iron...	36	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lead	...	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bottles & Jars	5	15	Brass	...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bones	...	2 14			

Meat and other Food Inspections.

From the figures given it will be seen that this very essential work has received attention and it is pleasing to add that as suggested in 1946, the authorities of Salisbury City, Wilton Borough, Amesbury R.D.C and Mere and Tisbury R.D.C. have agreed to contribute their quota of the cost of this work, based on the amount of the buying permits.

Animals Slaughtered.

	Number Killed.	Average per week.
Bovines	... 2,638	... 50·5
Calves	... 12,564	... 241·5
Pigs	... 10,304	... 198
Sheep	... 7,989	... 153·5
Total	<u>33,495</u>	<u>643·5</u>

Meat Condemned.

	Beef	Veal	Pork	Mutton
Amount in lbs. ...	108,534	2,599	4,183	3,885
Tuberculosis ...	76½%	6%	30%	
Fevered ...	3½%	31%	56%	15%
Bruising & Injury	1½%	10%	7%	6%
Immature ...		22½%		
Moribund ...	½%	21%	3%	8%
Angioma & Flukes	15½%			31%
Emaciated & Dropsical	2%	9½%	4%	39%
Melanosis ...	¾%			1%

Tinned Foods.

The following amounts of tinned food were condemned at various Buffer Dumps:—

Tinned Foods:—

1 tin	Peaches
5 tins	Sausages
4 tins	Salmon
1 tin	Kippered Herring
	Oval
41 tins	Peas
3 tins	Pilchards
1 tin	Mackerel
1 tin	Stewed Apples
249 tins	Milk
15 tins	Beans
2 tins	Soup
2 tins	Meat
3 tins	Bacon
3 tins	Steak & Kid. Pud.
1 tin	Beetroot
1 tin	Plum Jam
92 tins	Barley Flakes
1 tin	Scotch Broth
6 tins	Plums
1 tin	Meat & Veg.
1 tin	Macedoine Veg.
9 tins	Steak
1 tin	Irish Stew
2 tins	Ham Loaf
2 tins	Minced Beef
6 tins	Ulster Broth

Other Foods:—

2 jars	Exox
156 lbs	Macaroni
25½ lbs	Semolina
4½ lbs	Glenmar Pudding
2½ lbs	Custard Pudding
2 lbs	Porage Oats
4 lbs	Rolled Oats
30 lbs	Flour
6 pkts	Ryvita Crisp Bread
1 pkt	Dates
9 slabs	Chocolate
4 gallons	Apple Juice

Cowsheds and Dairies.

There are 65 T.T. Herds, an increase of 22 over 1946. The number of Accredited Herds is 38.

Number on registers:—

Cow-keepers	...	...	304
Cow-keepers and purveyors	...	...	69
Milk purveyors only ..	...	...	11
			—
Total ...			384

Housing.

Private Enterprise

- 21 New dwellings.
- 2 under construction.

Conversions and Adoptions.

Accommodation has been provided for thirteen families by the conversion of various premises into dwellings during the year.

A further nine families will be provided with accommodation, when adaptions and reconstructions in progress are completed.

Council Houses.

Completed 20.

Under construction 1947 :—

- 4 Barford Lane, Downton.
- 4 Charlton All Saints.
- 4 Nunton.
- 10 Whiteparish.
- 4 Bishopstone.
- 4 Hanging Langford.
- 6 Fovant.

Hutted Camps.

Work has been commenced on the following :—

- 16 huts Dinton.
- 9 huts Quidhampton.
- 21 huts Windmill Camp, Downton.
- 22 huts Shute End, Alderbury.

Housing Survey under Hobhouse Report.

Total Number of Houses to be surveyed	R.V. limit of houses to be surveyed	State of Survey in Rural District			Total number of houses surveyed up to 31st Dec. '47
		Completed	In progress	Not yet commenced	
3,109	*£15	—	Yes	—	1,238

Classification—Number and Percentages.

1	2	3	4	5	Total Classified (100%)
81	167	832	11	147	
6.5%	12.7%	68%	0.9%	11.9%	39.8%

Temporary Permits due to blitz and other conditions.

There are at the moment a total of 48 temporary permits in use, plus six cottages Licenced under the Housing Acts. Six Licences have been cancelled during the year but there has been an addition of eleven new ones.

Complaints.

These have been more numerous than usual but where the complaint, upon investigation was justified, verbal notices have proved sufficient and I must give a word of praise to the way invariably displayed by the Public Health Staff in dealing with these.

Infectious Diseases.

The Salisbury Isolation Hospital is the centre for this District. During this year there have been the usual sporadic cases, but no epidemic.

Disease		Number of cases	Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	4	4	0
Diphtheria ...	...	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	...	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	1	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	...	4	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	0	0	0
Measles ...	...	294	1	0
Whooping Cough	...	19	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0		0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	1		0	0
Encephalitis	...	0	0	0
Vincents Angina	...	0	0	0
Gastro Enteritis	...	0	0	0
Pneumococal Meningitis	0		0	0

Tuberculosis.

Age Period	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0 ..				
1 I		I		
5 ...				I
10 ..				
15 ...		I		
20 ... I I		I	I	
25 .. I		I		I
35 .. I		I		
45 ...				
55 .. I		I		
65 & upwards				
Totals ... 4 3			2	0

During the year there was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one death from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Infestation.

No steps were found necessary under this heading during the past year.

G. NAPIER, M.O.H.

